

The
Indiana Department of
Veterans Affairs
Update
for
July 2012



Director's Comments



CVSO Conference: Based on the feedback we've received, the June 4-7 IDVA Conference was a success. Many thanks go to Mike Stephens and his staff at the VA for the great information imparted to the CVSOs in two sessions. The Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) from the VFW, the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans provided some much-needed information and advice, and of course, John Hickey and his crew from the American Legion provided a great New Service Officer course, as usual. And thanks to all the other agencies and businesses which also had a part.

Fall Conference: The next conference will be the IDVA Fall Conference, to be conducted on Friday, 12 October at the Indiana Veterans' Home. More about that in a future IDVA Update.

New State Service Officer: IDVA proudly announces the newest addition to the staff. Jeanette Gibson, pictured at right, started on Monday, 18 June. Jeanette, a Gulf War Army veteran, will also be the new Hoosier Women Veterans' Coordinator. Her phone number is (317) 232-3919 and e-mail address is jgibson@dva.in.gov.



Jeanette Gibson

Indiana State Fair: The next event in which IDVA will participate is the Indiana State Fair. IDVA will once again have a booth in the Exposition Hall for the duration of the Fair from 3 to 19 August. Veteran's Day at the Fair will be Thursday, 16 August. On that day veterans will be admitted free of charge.

Bricks of Remembrance: When men and women stand to protect our freedom and give their lives for our democracy, will we stand ready to remember their courage and strength? Will we place in time a marker of their life for us, and show the world that such heroes will not be forgotten? Your tax-free contribution can provide for generations a 'Brick of Remembrance' appropriately placed at the very center of this great State. These dedicated bricks will encircle the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument at the Indianapolis Circle Center, providing a visible demonstration of your commitment to the fine men and women who have been the guardians of our freedom. You can contribute to the placement of as many bricks as you wish for only \$100.00 a brick which includes the individual's name, rank, branch of service and dates to be remembered. Bricks will be prepared and installed on a quarterly basis.

Please make your check payable to the "Indiana War Memorial Foundation" a 501 (c) (3) a not-for-profit foundation established to support and promote the Indiana War Memorials. Please send your check and the form from the back of this newsletter to the following address:

Indiana War Memorial Foundation
7399 N. Shadeland Ave, #141
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Please contact through email at customerservice@indianawarmemorials.com or leave a voice message at: (317) 650-9058.

Poster and Flyers: I invite your attention to the posters and flyers at the back of the publication which call attention to many events and opportunities in the State.

POSITIONS OPEN AT ST. VINCENT HEALTH

The following is taken, with permission, from the St. Vincent web site.

St. Vincent Health is one of the largest employers in the state of Indiana with more than 13,000 associates, meaning whatever your specialization and whatever your professional goals the sky is the limit.

St. Vincent Health has been serving the health care needs of Indiana residents for more than 126 years. Our health ministry consists of 20 facilities, with a direct presence in 46 Indiana counties. The system is comprised of one quaternary facility, three tertiary hospitals, six critical access hospitals, six specialty hospitals, several joint venture partners and clinical affiliates.

A philosophy of strong partnerships with businesses, communities, physicians, associates and others is regarded by St. Vincent Health as essential to improving the health status of Hoosiers.

As advocates for a healthier society, we have developed strong partnerships with communities and individuals who share compatible values. We believe that health care should be kept local, which is why we have extended our reach beyond urban areas such as Indianapolis, Kokomo, and Anderson, and into rural communities where health services are often scarce.

Please visit our web site to search and apply for opportunities of interest at www.stvincent.org/jobs. St. Vincent Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



As of June 12, 2012, Indiana had 1,075 men and women deployed from the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve for Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn.

Since 9/11/2001 18,722 Hoosiers have been mobilized for the Global War on Terror and another 3,573 for domestic missions, for a total of 22,295 deployments.





State Approving Agency Updates

VA Work-Study Program

Students receiving VA education benefits can “earn while they learn” in the Work-Study Program. The program is available for students who attend school three-quarter time or more and are enrolled in a college degree, vocational, or professional program.

Services performed under the VA Work-Study Program must be related to VA work. Students may work at the school veterans’ office, VA Medical Facilities, the VA Regional Office, or at approved State employment offices. Work-Study students earn an hourly wage equal to the State or Federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. Students can work during or between periods of enrollment, but the total number of hours worked cannot be more than 25 times the number of weeks in the enrollment period.

The State Approving Agency is currently accepting applications for Work-Study Positions. For more information, contact Ray Baker at (317) 234-6061.

'Stolen Valor Act' Struck Down by Supreme Court

From Military.com, 28 June 2012, by Bryant Jordan

A Texas man who helped lead the charge for Congress to pass a law against so-called military "fakers" said he was disappointed the Supreme Court had struck it down 28 June.

B.G. "Jug" Burkett, a Vietnam veteran and co-author of 1998's "Stolen Valor," told Military.com he thought the court might toss out the portion of the act making it a crime to "verbally" claim being awarded medals and decorations, but not the entire law.

"I'm disappointed. You've got people out there that can claim the highest decorations in the land and there's no way to legally stop them from doing so," he said. Burkett's view is widely shared by veterans' organizations.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is greatly disappointed in today's Supreme Court decision that overturns the Stolen Valor Act of 2005," VFW Commander in Chief Richard Denoyer said in a statement released shortly after the court's announcement.

In a ruling written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court determined that the act was too broad for seeking to "control and suppress all false statements on this one subject in almost limitless times and settings without regard to whether the lie was made for the purpose of material gain."

For the court to decide that lying about military service and decorations was a criminal offense would essentially endorse the government compiling "a list of subjects about which false statements are punishable. That governmental power has no clear limiting principle," he wrote.

In 2005 then-Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., authored legislation making it illegal to impersonate servicemembers and falsely claim awards. The law made it a federal misdemeanor to misrepresent yourself as a recipient of a military medal or decoration. The crime was punishable by up to six months in jail for all but the Medal of Honor, which carried jail time of up to a year.

The Indiana Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn Memorial Wall

Indiana has sustained the following casualties since the last
IDVA Update, bringing the total for Indiana to 198



United States Army Sergeant **JaBraun Knox**, 23, of Auburn, Indiana.

Died May 18, 2012, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom of injuries sustained when his unit received indirect fire.

Sergeant Knox was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.



Indiana Army National Guard Specialist **Arronn D. Fields**, 27, of Knightsville, Indiana.

Died May 21, 2012, of injuries sustained during a rocket propelled grenade attack.

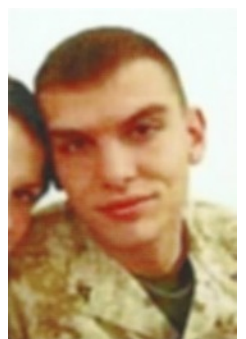
He enlisted in the National Guard in 2006 and was assigned to the Indiana Army National Guard's 381st Military Police Company, 81st Troop Command.

He was a graduate of Northview High School in Brazil, Indiana.



United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal **Joshua E. Witsman**, 22, of Covington, Indiana.

Died May 30, 2012, while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal **Hunter D. Hogan**, 21, originally of Norman, Indiana.

Died June 23, 2012 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He graduated from Brownstown Central High School in 2009.



Army Names First Female Division Deputy Commanding General

FORT HOOD – The Army announced that Brig. Gen. Laura Richardson will become the Army's first female deputy commanding general of a combat division. The aviation officer will serve as a deputy commanding general in the 1st Cavalry Division at a date to be announced.

Her background includes logistics, personnel and operations. Richardson commanded the 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, an assault helicopter battalion, while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She also served as the military aide to the vice president and as a liaison officer to the United States Senate. For more information, visit

http://www.army.mil/article/75831/Army_s_first_female_division_deputy_commander_to_lead_America_s_First_Team_/.

From Army e-Echoes, May-Aug 2012

Requesting Military Service Records

Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) and other military and medical records several ways.

The National Archives' online eVetRecs system creates a customized order form to request information from veterans' military personnel records. Users must be military veterans or next of kin of a deceased, former member of the military. Military records are accessioned into the National Archives, and become archival, 62 years after the service member's separation from the military. If the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is a federal (non-archival) record, the military veteran, or the next-of-kin of the deceased veteran, can request copies of the OMPF online. If the OMPF is an archival record, it can be ordered online for a copying fee. Archival records are open to the public.

All requests must contain specific information and be signed and dated by the veteran or next-of-kin. The next of kin of a deceased veteran must provide proof of death of the veteran. Requestors who are not the veteran or next of kin, must complete a Standard Form 180 (SF 180).

The 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center damaged or destroyed 16-18 million Army and Air Force records that documented the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912-1964. Though many records were either badly damaged or completely destroyed, alternate record sources can often be used to reconstruct these records. For more information, visit <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

From Army e-Echoes, May-Aug 2012

June 19, 2012

Processing of Retroactive Agent Orange Claims Nearly Complete

Milestone Allows VA to Refocus 1,200 Decision Makers on Claims Backlog

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that nearly 230,000 claims have already been processed for the three newest Agent-Orange related conditions through June 2012, including over 150,000 claims required to be adjudicated under the order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*. The near completion of these complex *Nehmer* claims enables VA to redirect 1,200 employees who were dedicated to reviewing the Agent Orange cases toward addressing the current backlog of disability claims.

“I am proud of our VA employees who worked hard to complete these Agent Orange claims, putting over \$3.6 billion into the hands of our Vietnam Veterans and their survivors,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We completed all of the Agent Orange *Nehmer* claims for living Veterans, and are now focusing on the fewer than 500 remaining that will benefit survivors.”

The Agent Orange claims stemmed from VA’s 2010 amendment of its regulations to add ischemic heart disease, hairy cell and other chronic B-cell leukemias, and Parkinson's disease to the list of diseases presumed to be related to exposure to the herbicide used in Southeast Asia.

“While we work to transform how we do business through new processes and technology, at the end of the day it’s about taking care of our Veterans and their loved ones on the issues affecting their lives,” said Secretary Shinseki.

Given the complexity of the historical casework, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) allocated its most experienced decision makers, about 37 percent of its rating staff, to processing Agent Orange claims. VBA’s 13 resource centers were exclusively dedicated to re-adjudicating these claims.

Even with this allocation of 37 percent of the rating staff dedicated to Agent Orange claims, VA processed over 1 million disability claims in each of the last 2 years, an unprecedented number. “Incoming claims over the last ten years have nearly doubled,” said VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison A. Hickey. “Being able to refocus these skilled raters on the backlog is vitally important.”

In addition to redirecting its rating staff, VA has developed a comprehensive transformation plan to achieve in 2015 Secretary Shinseki’s goal of completing claims within 125 days at 98 percent accuracy. The plan is built on more than 40 designed, tested, and measured people, processing, and technology initiatives. VA is now beginning the nationwide rollout of its new operating model and electronic processing system, known as the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). All regional offices will be operating under the new model and using the new processing system by the end of 2013.

VA has established a website, www.fastrack.va.gov, to assist Veterans in filing claims for the three new conditions related to the effects of Agent Orange exposure. It guides Veterans through automated, program-assisted menus to capture the information and medical evidence needed for faster claims decision. Potentially eligible Veterans include those who were exposed based on duty or visitation in Vietnam or on its inland waterways between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; exposed along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971; or exposed due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases within and outside of the United States.



Veterans' Pension Update - Caution about A&A Claims

A yearlong investigation into a federal pension program for low income veterans has concluded that weak oversight and unclear rules have made the system ripe for abuse, including by financial planners and lawyers who help well-off retirees qualify for benefits by transferring or hiding assets. The report by the Government Accountability Office, released 6 June, found that more than 200 firms had sprouted up across the country to help veterans "re-structure" assets so they can appear indigent and therefore eligible for tax-free pensions, which can pay more than \$20,000 a year. While transferring assets to qualify for the pension is not illegal under current rules, Congressional officials and veterans groups say the practice undermines the purpose of the pension system - aiding poor veterans - and burdens federal spending at a time of deep budget cuts.

The G.A.O. also found that some firms overcharge veterans for services - in some cases more than \$10,000 - or sell them financial products that are potentially harmful, like trusts that limit a veteran's access to the money or deferred annuities that generate income only after the veteran's death. The report placed partial blame for the problems on the Department of Veterans Affairs, saying it has unclear eligibility rules, does not systematically verify financial information and uses forms that do not require applicants to report asset transfers and other financial details. The G.A.O. also said Congress should consider giving the department "look-back" authority to deny applicants who transfer or hide assets in the years just before applying for pensions. Other means-tested programs, like Medicaid, have such policies. A bipartisan group of senators, including Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Richard M. Burr (R-NC), plans to introduce legislation giving the V.A. look-back authority.

The Senate Special Committee on Aging was scheduled to discuss that bill and the G.A.O. report in a hearing. "If things continue as they are, and people see this program as a magnet for rip-offs and waste, I believe that in this financial climate support for the program will fall apart," Mr. Wyden said, "I want to preserve this for people who need it." The Department of Veterans Affairs said it concurred with the G.A.O.'s recommendations. A senior official said the department was also drafting new regulations that would clarify the types of asset transfers that might disqualify a pension applicant. Some transfers, such as for medical expenses, would remain acceptable under the new rules, "By making it clear the impact of asset transfers, we would close this gap and reduce the incentive for people to engage in this kind of behavior," said Michael Daugherty, assistant director of the V.A.'s Pension and Fiduciary Service.

To qualify for the pension, applicants must be over 65 or be permanently disabled, have served during wartime and fall below the income threshold: about \$12,200 for a person with no dependents. Last year, the system paid \$4.3 billion to 517,000 veterans or their survivors - up from about \$3.7 billion in 2007. In addition to their pension checks, veterans who cannot cook, bathe or otherwise care for themselves can also receive stipends to pay for help, a benefit known as aid and attendance. The G.A.O. and Congressional officials said firms that market services to veterans had been particularly aggressive about obtaining aid and attendance benefits, which can increase a pension by more than 50 percent. The number of applicants approved for aid and attendance has grown sharply, to 38,000 in 2011, up from 22,500 in 2006. Though the G.A.O. and Congressional officials suggested that lax oversight had contributed to the high acceptance rate, V.A. officials said there were other factors at play, including a weak economy and a desire to get benefits quickly to frail veterans.

Continued on next page

Veterans' Pension Update (continued)

As part of their investigation, G.A.O. employees also posed as the children of an 86-year-old veteran who was seeking help qualifying for a pension. In calls to 19 firms, they were told time and again that they could qualify even with assets worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, provided they put their money in annuities or trusts, for which the firms charged administrative fees. "V.A. allows you to qualify, regardless of what your assets are," one company representative said, according to a G.A.O. transcript. "And I've had people with over a million dollars qualify for this benefit." Investigators working for the G.A.O. and the Special Committee on Aging found that financial planners and lawyers often worked through nursing homes or assisted living centers for the elderly to gain access to veterans. In those cases, the pensions presumably helped finance the cost of living in the homes.

Investigators also found numerous cases of firms charging high fees for helping veterans apply, even though organizations like the American Legion, as well as many states, offer the same assistance free. In one case, a veteran in Utah reported signing a contract that gave his first pension check to an agent who helped him apply. But because of delays in the system, that check was unusually large: \$16,000.

Investigators said some firms posed as veterans advocates when marketing services. And some of those services included selling products that turned out to be harmful to the veterans. A Montana woman, for instance, reported that a lawyer advised her father, a World War II veteran, to sell his house so he could move into an assisted living development. The lawyer assured the woman that her father would qualify for aid and attendance benefits that would help pay the bill. But the V.A. rejected the application, leaving the veteran on the hook for the entire monthly rent for his new home, "I do not know, fully, who is at fault," the woman, Kris Schaffer, says in testimony submitted to the Senate committee. "I only know that, for my father, this is a terrible miscarriage of justice," [Source: New York Times James Dao article 5 Jun 2012]

Alert to Military Retirees - E-Mail Fraud Alert

DFAS CLEVELAND – There are emails being sent to individuals, including military members, military retirees, and civilian employees, which appear to be sent by a DFAS employee. Although the email appears to come from a DFAS employee and displays a dot mil address it is actually from a non-governmental email account. This is an example of what's called "spoofing."

The emails indicate that individuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be able to obtain additional funds from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). These emails are not issued by DFAS and will likely result in a financial loss if you comply with the suggestions in the email. The email states that such funds can be obtained by sending copies of your VA award letter, your income tax returns, your 1099-Rs, your Retired Account Statements, and a copy of your DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, to a so-called retired Colonel at an address in Florida. Do NOT follow the suggestions in the email because you will be providing a significant amount of your personal information to a complete stranger, which could result in a financial loss to you.

DFAS officials point to the agency's email policy that has been developed to protect customer privacy. DFAS will never send you unsolicited email messages requesting your myPay login ID and password or any other personal or financial information. DFAS also will not send you unsolicited email messages with attachments. Never reveal your myPay login credentials in response to an email, no matter who appears to have sent it. And if you receive an e-mail message that appears suspicious, do not click on any links or open attachments. The best way to protect yourself online is knowledge. Equip yourself and protect your family by visiting the [Internet Fraud page on USA.gov](http://InternetFraud.page.on.USA.gov). *From the Army e-Echoes, May-Aug 2012*

May 15, 2012

Women Veterans Task Force Draft Plan Released

VA Seeks Public Comment on Strategies

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is releasing for public comment a draft of its strategic report to address key issues facing women Veterans. The plan outlines steps for improvements to care and services for women Veterans that are sustainable, accountable and a part of the department's culture and operations.

“Expanding care and services to women Veterans is too important to limit ourselves solely to the views within the department, so we are seeking feedback from all stakeholders, most importantly women Veterans themselves,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The VA must be visionary and agile enough to anticipate and adjust not only to the coming increase in women Veterans, but also to the complexity and longevity of treatment needs.”

Shinseki formed a task force to develop an action plan to address women Veterans' issues. Since then, the group has conducted a broad survey of department experts to identify those issues and organize them by priority. The draft report is an interim step prior to VA finalizing its overall plan.

The report comes at an important juncture in VA's history that demands a review of the quality, quantity, and types of services and programs it provides to women Veterans. The number of women Veterans using VA has increased 83 percent in the past decade, from about 160,000 to over 292,000 between fiscal years 2000 and 2009, compared with a 50 percent increase in men.

Women are now the fastest growing cohort within the Veteran community. In 2011, about 1.8 million or 8 percent of the 22.2 million Veterans were women. The male Veteran population is projected to decrease from 20.2 million men in 2010 to 16.7 million by 2020. In contrast, the number of women Veterans will increase from 1.8 million in 2011 to 2 million in 2020, at which time women will make up 10.7 percent of the total Veteran population.

VA is training providers in basic and advanced topics in women's health through mini-residencies, and over 1200 providers have currently received training. Comprehensive women's health care can be provided within three different models of care, including comprehensive women's clinics; separate, but shared, space women's clinics; or integrated primary care clinics. All of these clinic models ensure that women receive all of their primary health care (prevention, medical, and routine gynecologic care) by a single primary care provider. A network of medical directors and program managers who coordinate care for women Veterans now encompasses all 153 medical centers in the VA Health Care System.

The public notice and instructions for how to submit comments will be posted at www.regulations.gov. The draft written report will be open for comment for 30 days, and responders will have a number of options to provide both electronic and written feedback. Readers will also be able to participate in a public discussion board on the Internet at: <http://vawomenvetstratplan.uservoice.com/forums/159415-general>.

To view the report without making recommendations, please visit VA's website at: http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/Draft_2012_Women-Veterans_StrategicPlan.pdf.



Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices by flying them to Washington, DC to reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to WWII survivors along with other veterans who are terminally ill. *Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, Inc.*, a regional nonprofit, volunteer organization, is a new hub of this growing Network. It is established to fly and escort NE Indiana WWII veterans directly from Fort Wayne to Washington DC. Private motor coaches will be standing by to transport them to their Memorial, as well as other memorial stops throughout the day. Then...back to the airport for a flight home the same evening.

Why Honor Flight?

The World War II Memorial in Washington DC was completed and dedicated in May 2004. It is a long overdue "Thank You" to the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom, and a memorial to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It was so long overdue that many WWII survivors have been unable to visit their memorial due to the barriers of advanced age, such as health matters, stamina, finances, or other travel impediments. Honor Flight provides a way for many of these veterans to visit and reflect at their memorial.

WWII veterans pay nothing for this trip. They have given enough. Honor Flights are funded by community donations from generous individuals, corporations, foundations, and other groups who wish to be an important part of honoring these heroes. The cost is also defrayed in part by Honor Flight volunteer "guardians," who not only make a substantial donation, but honor veterans in a very personal way, escorting them and being there to help as needed throughout the day.

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHEAST INDIANA

Why Northeast Indiana?

Travel is even more difficult for veterans who live in areas where direct commercial flights to DC are not available. In areas such as NE Indiana, charter flights are the answer.

Why Now?

There is already a waiting list of WWII veterans in the NE Indiana region who have applied for an Honor Flight trip. Underscoring the urgency of this program is the unfortunate fact that time is limited for our WWII heroes. **WWII veterans are dying at a rate of more than 1000 every day.**

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed as guardians for flights, for help with ground operations, fund raising, and various other administrative tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please email honorflightnei@gmail.com or call our contact number below.

What Can We Do To Help?

Donations*

Donations are critical. These flights of honor are impossible without help from generous donors.

Please make checks payable to:
Honor Flight NE Indiana
Mail to:
PO Box 5
Humertown, IN 46748

Prayers

Whether or not you can make a donation or volunteer your time, we ask for your prayers.

Prayers for guidance and success with this program, and especially for safe travel for our veterans and volunteer guardians.

Please contact us about in kind donations.

** Exception—Attention WWII veterans: We do not solicit nor wish to accept personal donations from WWII veterans. You have given enough. This trip is a small token of appreciation from those of us you fought to protect. Please allow us that privilege.*

WWII Veterans

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit your memorial and would like to join other veterans for an Honor Flight to DC, please submit an application. Veterans are selected according to the date the application is received.

Applications

Veteran and volunteer applications are available on our website: www.hfnei.org

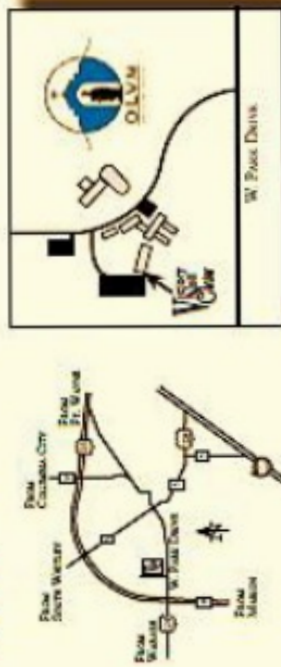
Or contact us by email: honorflightnei@gmail.com or phone (260) 633-0049.

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax professional for advice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Getting to Victory Noll Center

The Victory Noll campus is located on the west side of the city of Huntington on the north side of West Park Drive. Once on campus, follow the main drive up the hill and past the statue of Our Lady. From there, follow the signs to the Victory Noll Center parking lot.



Women Veterans Wellness Retreat

JULY 13-15, 2012

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2012

Victory
Noll
Center

A MINISTRY COLLABORATION BETWEEN
OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS
AND
LUTHERAN MILITARY VETERANS AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES



1000 W. PARK DRIVE
HUNTINGTON, IN 46750



Women Veterans Wellness Retreat

In conjunction with Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry and the Huntington County Veterans Service Office, Victory Noll Center will host this retreat for female military veterans.

The retreat is being held for any female veteran, regardless of age or from any service period including those currently serving. The focus of this program is to find positive self-care practices that female military members can use to work through their own unique experiences and negative stressors often found when returning home from deployment or even during active-duty service.

The care-giving team for this retreat includes women who have experienced combat, as well as other caregivers who understand and have been tending to the unique needs and challenges of veterans, especially female military members.

Victory Noll Center provides a safe and peaceful retreat location for this program, which allows individuals the means to relax as they begin their own individual journeys home. Activities will be available throughout the weekend including: positive stress practices, group discussions, or individual sessions with a team member. Veterans may learn about journaling practices, walk the labyrinth, or explore the beautiful Victory Noll campus.

Arrival on Friday is between 4 and 5 p.m., with social time to follow. Saturday's retreat session will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Women will have the option of staying Saturday night with a Sunday departure. Meals will be provided.

Cost: \$10 registration fee. Scholarships are available.
Register early. Retreat limited to 15 women.
To register for this retreat please call: (260) 356-0628 ext. 174
or send the registration form below to:
Victory Noll Center, 1900 W. Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750

For more information,
 contact Victory Noll Center at (260)356-0628, ext. 174
 or by e-mail at victorynollcenter@olvm.org

Visit our web site at:
www.olvm.org/vncenter.html

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

No one is ever turned away from a program because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting Victory Noll Center at (260) 356-0628, ext. 174.

Women Veterans Wellness Retreat

CHECK DATES YOU WISH TO ATTEND

☐ July 13-15, 2012 ☐ September 28-30, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

To ensure registration, return form with \$10 registration fee to:
 Victory Noll Center, P.O. Box 109, Huntington, IN 46750
 Make checks payable to: Victory Noll Center

**ATTENTION ALL VETERANS
AND
CITIZENS OF RIPLEY COUNTY**

SAVE THESE DATES

JULY 18 - JULY 22

THE RIPLEY COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
AND
THE VIETNAM VETERANS TRIBUTE COMMITTEE
IS HONORING ALL RIPLEY COUNTY VETERANS

WITH TWO MAJOR EVENTS

A VIETNAM AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS TRIBUTE

FOR ALL VIETNAM AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS
WHO LIVED IN RIPLEY COUNTY THEN OR WHO LIVE HERE NOW
SAMMY DAVIS, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SATURDAY - JULY 21ST - 1 PM

SOUTH RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL GYM - 1589 S BENHAM RD - VERSAILLES, IN

THE AMERICAN VETERANS TRAVELING TRIBUTE

FEATURING AN 80% REPLICA OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL

AND PANELS HONORING VETERANS FROM ALL WARS AND
POLICEMEN, FIREMEN, AND WAR ON TERRORISM VICTIMS

THURSDAY JULY 19 AT 12 NOON-THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 22ND AT 3 PM
OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY FROM OPENING TO CLOSING

SOUTHEASTERN CAREER CENTER - 901 W US 50- VERSAILLES, IN

WITH THANKS TO GRANTS FROM THE RISING SUN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC. THE RIPLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC. AND MONETARY DONATIONS FROM THE CPL. JOHN C. BISHOP MEMORIAL FUND, THE CITY OF BATESVILLE, THE CITY OF SUNMAN, FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, NAPOLEON VFW, SUNMAN AMERICAN LEGION, VERSAILLES AMERICAN LEGION, PARALYZED HOOSIER VETERANS, KEITH R. "SANDY" BECKER FAMILY, JIM AND PAT LEMON, HILLENBRAND INDUSTRIES, ROY AND MARY MITCHELL, PETE AND CARLA STENGER,

-Find Us on facebook at VietnamVeteransTributeRipleyCountyIndiana-



**Need a hand helping
your Veteran get into care?
Reach out to us.**



**Coaching Into Care VA
Family Call Center**

(888) 823-7458

Monday – Friday, 8am – 8:00pm EST

FACT SHEET

- **Coaching Into Care** is a national telephone-based support service for family members and others who want to help reluctant Veterans access their VA health care benefits, particularly for mental health issues
- **Purpose:** To help family members and other loved ones encourage distressed Veterans to access VA Care successfully anywhere in the United States
- **Phone:** (888) 823-7458, Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 8:00pm Eastern Time
- **Email:** CoachingIntoCare@va.gov
- **Web:** www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/
- **Type of help provided:** Coaching Into Care is another “door” to VA care. We provide support and problem solving assistance for family members and others concerned about a Veteran, coaching with family members about how to talk to Veterans about seeking VA care, referrals for care for Veterans and family members, and information about available programs or enrolling in VA Care
- Veterans and their family members already well-connected to VA care should work with their local providers rather than calling Coaching Into Care
- Support for Coaching Into Care is provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Coaching Into Care staff coordinate with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Program Managers and Points of Contact in VA Medical Centers, Vet Centers, the National Veterans Crisis Line, the VA Caregiver Support Line, and the VA National Center for PTSD
- **Locations of call center personnel:** Philadelphia, PA, Durham, NC, and Los Angeles, CA
- **Leadership:** National and PA Site Director, Steven L. Sayers, Ph.D.; Training Director, Tanya Hess, Ph.D.; NC Site Director, Monica Mann-Wrobel, Ph.D.; CA Site Director, Shirley Glynn, Ph.D.
- **For immediate crises:** Family members or Veterans should still contact the Veterans Crisis Line, (800) 273-8255, press 1 for Veterans
- **Former name:** Families At Ease

The Friends of the Indiana War Memorials

"Bricks of Remembrance"

When men and women stand to protect our freedom and give their lives for our democracy, will we stand ready to remember their courage and strength? Will we place in time a marker of their life for us, and show the world that such heroes will not be forgotten? Your tax-free contribution can provide for generations a 'Brick of Remembrance' appropriately placed at the very center of this great State. These dedicated bricks will encircle the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument at the Indianapolis Circle Center, providing a visible demonstration of your commitment to the fine men and women who have been the guardians of our freedom. You can contribute to the placement of as many bricks as you wish for only \$100.00 a brick which includes the individual's name, rank, branch of service and dates to be remembered. Bricks will be prepared and installed on a quarterly basis.

Please make your check payable to the "Indiana War Memorial Foundation" a 501 (c) (3) a not-for-profit foundation established to support and promote the Indiana War Memorials. Please send your check and this form to the following address:

Indiana War Memorial Foundation, 7399 N. Shadeland Ave, #141, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Please contact through email at customerservice@indianawarmemorials.com or leave a voice message at: (317) 650-9058.

Name: _____ Day-Phone: _____

Address: _____ Evening-Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Enclosed is a payment for _____ @ \$100 per brick (please attach a separate page for each brick)

☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ donation.

Please engrave brick as follows:

Name &
Rank

Dates of
Service

Branch and
Any Battles

PRINT 3 LINES 18 Characters per line including spaces and punctuation

Each brick will be placed in an appropriate manner that is befitting the honor we hold towards our heroes and will be displayed with dignity and respect.